

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 12-15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24 and 30-39 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 12-15, 18, 19, 21-26 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada (U.S. Pat. No. 6,041,877). However, in view of the amendments made to independent Claims 1, 13 and 22 and cancellation of independent Claim 25, it is believed that this § 102(b) rejection has been addressed and overcome. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this § 102(b) rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 9, 10, 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant(s) have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 9 and any intervening claims. Likewise, independent Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 16. In addition, new independent Claim 30 is generally related to the combination of independent Claim 1 and dependent Claim 10 and any intervening claims. Finally, new independent Claim 31 is generally related to the combination of independent Claim 13 and dependent Claim 17. Therefore, all claims should now be in condition for allowance.

11. (withdrawn)

12. (currently amended) The hybrid motor vehicle of Claim [[6]] 1 wherein said second axle assembly includes a differential and a pair of drive axles connecting said second pair of wheels to said differential, and wherein said third clutch is operable for selectively coupling said rotary member of said electric motor to said differential.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1240.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Philip E. Rettig, Reg. No. 34,000

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

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